# AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
# 2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

## Question 1

**3 Points**

**One point** is earned for a correct description of a major difference between federal and unitary systems.

Acceptable descriptions of a major difference include any of the following:

- A federal system has a constitutional (formal) division of power between national and subnational levels of government, while in unitary systems, all the power is constitutionally (formally) given to the national government.
- In a unitary system, devolution may occur, and subnational levels of government may have regional autonomy, but these powers may be rescinded by the national government. In a federal system, regional autonomy is constitutionally (formally) protected.
- In a unitary system, powers held by subnational levels of government are delegated by the central government, and no powers are reserved to the subnational level. In a federal system, subnational levels of government have separate, formally reserved powers.

**One point** is earned for a correct identification of one country of the six AP Comparative Government and Politics countries that has a federal system.

Acceptable answers include:

- Russia
- Mexico
- Nigeria

**One point** is earned for a correct identification of one country of the six AP Comparative Government and Politics countries that has a unitary system.

Acceptable answers include:

- Great Britain
- China
- Iran

Note: To earn a point for a correct description of a major difference, students must describe the major difference, not just define a federal and/or unitary system.

A score of 0 is earned for an attempted answer that merits no points.
A score of dash (–) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam. [ 1A ]

(1) A major difference between federal and unitary systems is that in unitary systems true constitutional authority is only held by the national government (subnational governments in unitary systems can get authority through devolution from the national government but it can be taken back), while in federal systems, subnational governments do have constitutional authority. Great Britain has a unitary system. Nigeria has a federal system.

(2) (a.) Country X

(b.) The percent of workforce in agriculture is lower in country X than in country Y ~~because~~ and countries with less members of their workforce in agriculture (and more in service) are more economically developed.

(c) The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is much higher ~~than~~ in country X than in country Y. This demonstrates that per capita, or per household, the citizens in country X make more money ~~in~~ which demonstrates ~~that~~ that they have jobs that exist in more economically developed countries

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1B

A major difference between federal and unitary systems is that federal systems have subnational governments, but unitary systems do not. Mexico ~~is a federal~~ has a federal system. Britain ~~is~~ has a unitary system.

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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

1C

A Federal government is a government that has 3 branches of government at a national level. So they have a national government that rules over smaller state governments. An example of a federal government is Great Britain. A unitary system on the other hand is just one central government and no state governments. An example of a unitary government is Iran.

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# AP® COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
# 2010 SCORING COMMENTARY

## Question 1

### Overview

The intent of this question was for students to demonstrate their understanding of the difference between unitary and federal systems, while providing examples of such systems from the six countries covered in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course. Students had specific tasks: to correctly describe a major difference between a federal system and a unitary system; to identify one country of the six AP Comparative Government and Politics countries that has a federal system; and to identify one that has a unitary system.

**Sample: 1A**
**Score: 3**

The response earned 1 point for correctly describing a major difference between unitary and federal systems by asserting that "in unitary systems true constitutional authority is only held by the national government, … while in federal systems, subnational governments do have constitutional authority." One point was earned for correctly stating that "Great Britain has a unitary system," and 1 point was earned for correctly stating that "Nigeria has a federal system."

**Sample: 1B**
**Score: 2**

The response did not earn a point for describing a major difference between federal and unitary systems. It incorrectly asserts "that federal systems have subnational governments, but unitary systems do not." One point was earned for correctly stating that "Mexico has a federal system," and 1 point was earned for correctly stating that "Britain has a unitary system."

**Sample: 1C**
**Score: 1**

The response did not earn a point for a correct description of a major difference between federal and unitary systems. It incorrectly asserts that the difference results from a federal system having "3 branches of government at a national level" as well as "a national government that rules over smaller state governments." It also incorrectly states that "[a] unitary system on the other hand is just one central government and no state governments." The response earned 1 point for correctly stating that Iran has a unitary system, but it incorrectly identifies Great Britain as a country that has a federal system and thus earned no point.

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